



## **Woodstock Pond 2005**

Woodstock Pond is a 7.5-acre impoundment located within York River State Park. Known in its early history as Taskinas Plantation, the park was the site of a 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century tobacco warehouse where local planters stored their crops to be shipped to England. Woodstock Pond was built in the 1950s and the park itself was opened in 1980. Because of its location and the quality of the fishing, this little fishery is ideal for a family outing.

Grass carp were stocked in 1989 in an effort to combat an extensive infestation of filamentous algae that was causing an imbalance between the largemouth bass and sunfish populations. The rate of algal infestation has declined since that time.

The pond was sampled in the spring of 2004 using electrofishing gear. This method of sampling the shoreline relies on using an electric current to stun the fish, which can then be picked up, assessed, and released.

This is essentially a bass and bluegill fishery with few other species present in significant numbers. Collected species from 2004 electrofishing were largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, American eel, and redear sunfish.

Past sampling indicated that the redear sunfish population was improving with a more balanced distribution of juvenile fish to blend with the harvestable sized fish. The survey results showed that the 2004 CPUE for redear sunfish (41/hr) was less than the 2001 survey (49/hr). The limited collection of redear sunfish (N=23) consisted of 21 fish greater than 180 mm in total length. Only one juvenile of 94 mm was collected. The largest fish was 227 mm in length.

The bluegill population was in fair condition. A decent number of bluegill in the 6 to 8" size range were present. A high proportion of the bluegill sample consisted of juveniles less than 9 cm. The 2004 survey yielded a CPUE of 228/hr.

An electrofishing sample every 3 years gives you a snapshot picture of what the fishery looks like. A great number of variables interact on a fishery and can influence the population structure of a desired species such as the largemouth bass. The 2001 survey showed an improving largemouth bass population (CPUE = 115/hr) with numerous fish in the 18 to 22" range. The 2004 survey showed a different look. The CPUE of 46/hr was noteworthy with the majority of bass in the 10 to 13" range. Only 2 bass of the 26 collected were greater than 14 inches. The bright spot of the bass sample was the largest bass that measured 21.7" and 6.7 lbs. Two largemouth bass of 29 and 30 mm were collected and were most likely the result of an early spawn.

Anglers can fish from the bank or from rented row boats. Shoreline angling access is best off of the dam where a several fishing platforms and piers have been constructed. Boat rentals offer anglers a chance to try their fishing luck or skill in areas of the pond not accessible from the shore. Private boats are not permitted on Woodstock Pond. There is a 15-inch minimum size limit on largemouth bass. The park caters to a wide variety of activities. There are various trails for biking, hiking, and horseback riding. There are picnic shelters, playgrounds, an interpretive center, and a gift shop. Organized group activities are also offered.

York River State Park can be reached by taking Route 607 from I-64. Heading in the direction of Croaker, take Route 606 east to the park. For further information, please contact the park office at 757-566-3036.

Table 1. Total weight, number, and catch per unit effort of fish sampled by electrofishing from Woodstock Pond, May 25, 2004

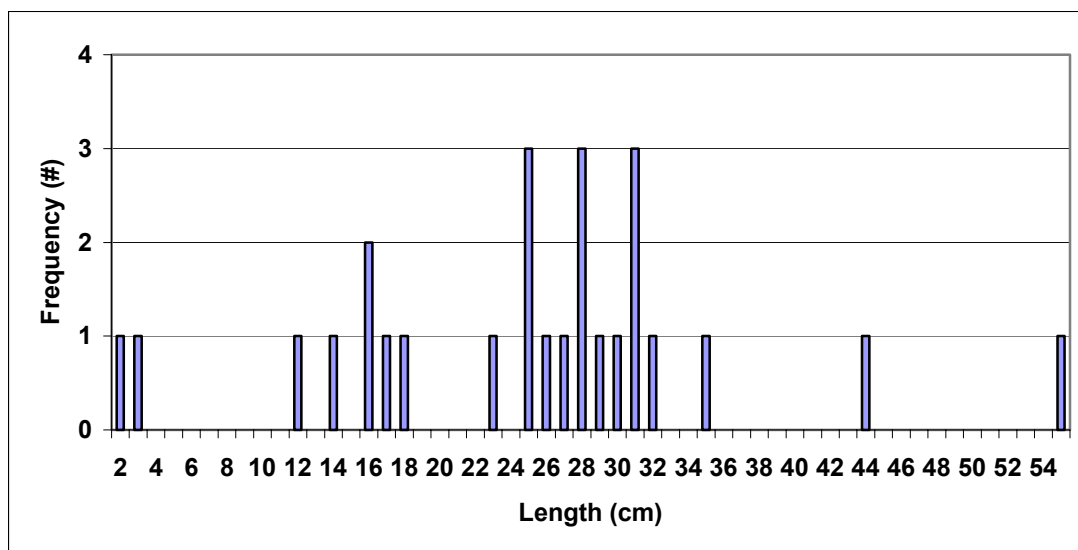
				CPUE	(#/hr)	
Species	Wt. (g)	N	Fing.	Inter.	Harv.	Total
Largemouth Bass	9286	26	14.4	18	14.4	46.8
Bluegill	3115*	127	90	54	84.6	228.6
Redear sunfish	2316*	23	1.8	1.8	37.8	41.4
Black crappie	172	3				5.4
American eel	431	7				12.6
	Total	186				

\* Bluegill and redear sunfish weights were from 56 and 19 fish, respectively.

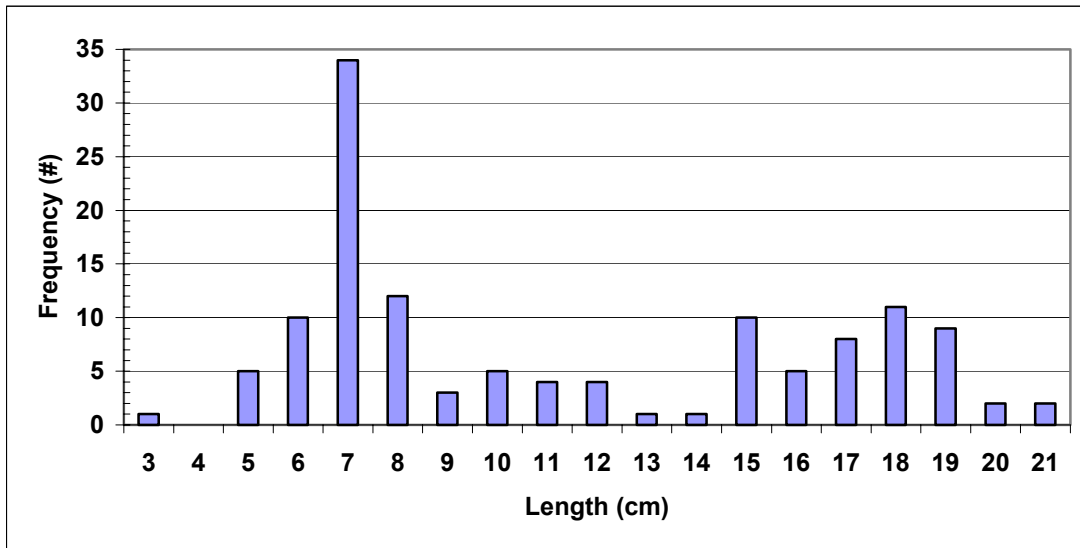
Table 2. Population statistics for selected species collected by electrofishing in Woodstock Pond, May 25, 2004

	PSD	RSD-P	RSD-M	Wr	Wr (int)	Wr (harv)
Largemouth Bass	44	11	6	84	84	88
Bluegill	61	5	0	89	89	87
Redear sunfish	95	0	0	85	85	85

Graph 1. Length frequency histogram of largemouth bass collected by electrofishing in Woodstock Pond, May 25, 2004



Graph 2. Length frequency histogram of bluegill collected by electrofishing in Woodstock Pond, May 25, 2004



Graph 3. Length frequency histogram of redear sunfish collected by electrofishing in Woodstock Pond, May 25, 2004

